

## Call Opening Notice for

### Consignment of PhD Research Grants

**Ref.: VALORIZA/UIDB/05064/2020/BI-DOCTORAMENTO**

The Research Center for the Valorization of Endogenous Resources (VALORIZA) is calling for the consignment of 4 (four) research grants, hereinafter referred to as PhD Research Grants, in the areas of Sustainable Agriculture and Circular Economy (1 vacancy); Bioenergy (1 vacancy); Social Sciences – Studies on Aging (1 vacancy); Territory and Design (1 vacancy), under the FCT Research Fellowship Regulation (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Statute (EBI).

The scholarships will be financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol for the Financing of the Multiannual Plan for Research Grants for PhD Students, signed between FCT and the R&D Unit, Research Center for the Valorization of Endogenous Resources (VALORIZA), reference 05064.

#### 1. APPLICATION PRESENTATION

The contest is open between 01/03/2021 and 5 p.m. (Lisbon hour) of 12/03/2021.

Applications and supporting documents for the application provided for in this Call Opening Notice must be submitted, necessarily, by email sent to [candidaturas.gii@ipportalegre.pt](mailto:candidaturas.gii@ipportalegre.pt).

Each candidate may submit only one application, under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted.

The provision of false statements or the performance of plagiarism by the candidates is grounds for canceling the application without prejudice to the adoption of other measures of a sanctioning nature.

#### 2. TYPE AND DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

PHD scholarships are intended to finance the carrying out, by the fellow, of research activities leading to obtaining the academic degree of doctor in Portuguese universities.

The research activities leading to the achievement of the academic degree of doctor will take place at the Research Center for the Valorization of Endogenous Resources (VALORIZA), which will be the host institution of the scholarship holders, without prejudice to the work that can be carried out in collaboration between more than an institution.

The research activities leading to obtaining the academic degree of doctor of selected scholarship holders must be part of the activity plan and strategy of the Research Center for the Valorization of Endogenous Resources (VALORIZA), and must be developed within the scope of Doctoral Programs appropriate to pursuit of the objectives defined in the referred activity plan and strategy of the Research Center.

The work plan may take place entirely or partially in a national institution (scholarship in the country or mixed scholarship, respectively).

The duration of the scholarships is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months), and the scholarship cannot be awarded for a period of less than 3 consecutive months.

In the case of a mixed scholarship, the period of the work plan that takes place in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

### 3. RECIPIENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The PhD Research Grants are intended for registered candidates or candidates who meet the necessary conditions to enroll in an appropriate Doctoral Program, according to point 2 of this Notice, and who intend to develop research activities leading to the achievement of the academic degree of doctor at the Research Center for the Valorization of Endogenous Resources (VALORIZA), or at host institutions associated with it.

### 4. ADMISSIBILITY

#### 4.1 Candidate's Admissibility Requirements

Can apply to this contest:

- National citizens or citizens of other member states of the European Union;
- Citizens of third States;
- Stateless persons;
- Citizens who are beneficiaries of political refugee status.

To apply for the PhD Research Grant, it is necessary to:

- Be licensed or master in the scientific areas of Sustainable Agriculture and Circular Economy; Bioenergy; Social Sciences – Studies on Aging; Territory and Design or in areas considered to be related.
- Residing in Portugal permanently and habitually, if the work plan associated with the scholarship is partially carried out by foreign institutions (mixed scholarships), a requirement applicable to both nationals and foreigners.
- Not having benefited from a doctoral or doctoral scholarship in companies directly financed by FCT, regardless of its duration.

#### 4.2 Application Admissibility Requirements

It is essential, under penalty of not being admitted to the Competition, to attach the following documents to the

application:

- Elements of the identity card / citizen card / passport;
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate;
- Certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held;
- Registration of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how he obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to that of graduate or master until the end of the application period;
- Letter of interest;
- Letters of Recommendation: Two letters of recommendation;
- Write the application and all documents associated with it, including letters of motivation and recommendation, in Portuguese or English.
- Present a work plan that fits the areas in which the tender is open, making the necessary articulation of them to the three research areas of VALORIZA: Energy and waste recovery; Sustainable production and environment; Enhancement of low-density cross-border territories;
- Indication of the doctoral program in which the work plan will be developed.

Regarding the aforementioned admissibility requirements, the following should be noted:

- Only candidates who have completed the cycle of studies leading to the degree of bachelor or master will be admitted until the end of the application period. If they do not yet have the certificate of completion of the course, a declaration of honor from the candidates will be accepted as they completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition by the end of the application period. The grant of the scholarship is always dependent on the presentation of proof of ownership of the academic qualifications required to grant the scholarship.

## 5. WORK PLANS AND SCIENTIFIC ORIENTATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The candidate will have to present a work plan that fits in the areas in which the competition is open, making the necessary articulation of them to the three research areas of VALORIZA:

- Energy and waste recovery;
- Sustainable production and environment;
- Enhancement of low-density cross-border territories.

The work plan to be developed must be presented in detail and necessarily include the following sections: abstract (maximum 250 words); object of study and its relevance; goal(s); state of art; methodology; expected results (including indication of the number of scientific articles expected); schedule and bibliography.

The work plan cannot exceed 10 pages, in A4 format, including schedule and bibliography. The font to be used should

be Times New Roman 12, with 1.5 spacing and normal margins (2.54).

The teaching component of a doctoral program is not considered part of the work plan.

The candidate may propose a supervisor external to VALORIZA, and VALORIZA will appoint a co-supervisor of the center, before the start of the contract, who will be responsible for monitoring the project at VALORIZA. This co-supervisor must belong to the teaching staff of IPP and be an integrated member of VALORIZA.

## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUS

### 6.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation takes into account the merit of the candidate, the merit of the work plan and the merit of the conditions of host.

Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale of zero (0.000 minimum score) to five (5,000 maximum score) in each of the three evaluation criteria:

- Criterion A - Merit of the candidate, weighing 40%
  - Sub criterion A1 - Academic path, weighing 20%;
  - Sub criterion A2 - Personal curriculum, weighing 60%;
  - Sub criterion A3 – Motivation letter, weighing 10%.
  - Sub criterion A4 - Letters of recommendation, weighing 10%.

In the evaluation of sub criterion A1, the academic degrees obtained will be valued, with the following score being attributed:

- Degree of licensed (Pre-Bologna) + Master's Degree = 5 points
- Degree of licensed (Post-Bologna) + Master's Degree = 4,5 points
- Integrated Master's Degree = 4 points
- Degree (Pre-Bologna) = 3.5 points
- Degree (Post-Bologna) = 3 points

In the evaluation of sub criterion A2, the following will be valued:

- the scientific path = 80%
  - scientific publications (books, book chapters and scientific journals - relative merit from 0 to 5 points) = 50%
  - participation in research projects (relative merit from 0 to 5 points) = 50%

- professional career (years of proven experience in a relevant area for that in which the work plan is presented - relative merit from 0 to 5 points) = 20%

- Criterion B - Merit of the work plan, weighing 50%
  - Sub criterion B1 - substantiated relevance of the object of study, weighing 40%;
  - Sub criterion B2 - State-of-the-art scientific quality and work plan methodology, weighing 50%;
  - Sub criterion B3 - Feasibility of the work plan, weighing 10%.

In the evaluation of sub criterion B1, the clear definition of research objectives and questions, the potential contribution of the research project to knowledge and the advancement of science and technology will be valued.

In the evaluation of sub criterion B2, the relevance of the state of the art presented and the proposed research methodology will be valued, taking into account its clarity, consistency and coherence, according to internationally accepted standards.

In the evaluation of sub criterion B3, the adequacy of the methodologies to the tasks and objectives provided for in the work plan will be valued according to the number of months indicated for carrying them out, as well as the total time foreseen for the completion of the project. If applicable, the analysis of the risks inherent to the various phases that constitute it will also be assessed, possibly with the preliminary identification of the most critical points and the corresponding contingency measures to be adopted.

The presentation of the schedule, as well as other additional elements, of an optional nature, related to the work plan, such as schemes, formulas or figures, will also be valued in the scope of this criterion.

- Criterion C - Merit of reception conditions, with a weight of 10%
  - Sub criterion C1 - Scientific merit and experience of the advisor(s) in the scientific area of the application, as well as their suitability for the candidate's supervision to obtain the academic degree of doctor, weighing 20%;
  - Sub criterion C2 - Quality and adequacy of the conditions of the host institution(s), weighing 60%;
  - Sub criterion C3 - Demonstration, by the candidate, of the reasons for choosing the guidance team, consisting of a supervisor(s) and host institution(s), weighing 20%.

For the evaluation of Criterion C, the presentation of the advisor and the host institution is mandatory when submitting the application.

For the purposes of deciding on the award of scholarships, candidates will be ranked accordingly to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the three criteria, with a weighting of **40%** for the Candidate's

Merit (A), **50%** for the Merit of the Work Plan (B) and **10%** for the Merit of Reception Conditions (C), translated by the following formula:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (0,4 \times A) + (0,5 \times B) + (0,1 \times C)$$

For tie-breaking purposes, the ranking of candidates will be made based on the ratings assigned to each of the evaluation criteria by the following order of precedence: criterion A (Merit of the Candidate), criterion B (Merit of the Work Plan) and criterion C (Merit of Reception Conditions).

In any of the evaluation criteria, the ratings will be assigned to three decimal places. The values resulting from the application of any specified formulas will be rounded up to the third decimal place, using the following rule: when the fourth decimal place is equal to or greater than 5 (five), it will be rounded up; when the fourth decimal place is less than 5 (five), the value of the third decimal place will be maintained.

Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final **classification below three values (3,000) are not eligible** for the scholarship.

## 6.2 Bonus

Candidates with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 90% will have a 10% bonus on criterion A - Candidate's Merit.

Applicants with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 60% and less than 90% will have a 5% bonus on the same criteria. The degree of incapacity is mandatorily proven through the presentation, in candidacy, of the Multiuse Disability Certificate, issued under the terms of Decree-Law n.º 202/96, of 23rd of October, in the current wording.

## 7. EVALUATION

The general coordinator of the evaluation is Professor Doctor Luís Carlos Loures.

The evaluation panel of candidates for the PhD Program in Sustainable Agriculture and Circular Economy consists of the following elements:

- Luís Carlos Loures, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA (panel coordinator)
- Paulo Brito, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA
- José Rato Nunes, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA

The evaluation panel of candidates for the PhD Program in Bioenergy consists of the following elements:

- Paulo Brito, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA (panel coordinator)
- Luís Carlos Loures, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA

- João Emílio Alves, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA

The evaluation panel of candidates for the PhD Program in Social Sciences – Studies on Aging is made up of the following elements:

- Luís Carlos Loures, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA (panel coordinator)
- João Emílio Alves, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA
- Alexandre Martins, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA

The evaluation panel of candidates for the PhD Program in Territory and Design consists of the following elements:

- Rui Castanho, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre (panel coordinator)
- João Emílio Alves, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA
- Paulo Ferreira, Polytechnic Institute of Portalegre / VALORIZA

Each evaluation panel will assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this Call for Proposals, considering the elements of evaluation.

All panel members, including the coordinator, make a commitment to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

The members of each panel, including the coordinator, cannot be advisors or co-advisors of candidates with applications submitted to the competition.

For each application, a final evaluation form will be produced by the respective panel, in which the arguments that led to the ratings attributed to each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria will be presented in a clear, coherent and consistent manner, also explaining any bonuses attributed.

Minutes of the responsibility of all its members will be produced from the meetings of each scoreboard.

The minutes and their annexes must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective reasons;
- Methodology adopted by the panel for cases considered private;
- Final Evaluation Sheets for each candidate;

- Provisional list of classification and ranking of candidates, in descending order of the final classification, of all applications evaluated by the panel;
- CDI statements from all panel members;
- Any delegations of vote and powers due to justified absence.

After the classification and ranking of candidates by the evaluation panels, the Coordinator will proceed to the global analysis of the results of the competition, proposing a provisional global list of classification and ranking of candidates for each PhD program, in decreasing order of the final classification of all applications. evaluated by the respective panel.

If any vacancy foreseen in any of the PhD courses is not filled, as there are no candidates with an application with a minimum classification of 3,000 points, as required in point 6.1. of this Notice, the scholarship will be awarded to the candidate with the best classification in any of the other PhDs' areas, who has not been able to obtain a scholarship, as long as that candidate presents an application with a minimum rating of 3,000 points.

## 8. DISCLOSURE OF RESULTS

The results of the evaluation are communicated via e-mail to the e-mail address used by the applicant to send the application / indicated in the application.

## 9. TIME LIMITS AND PROCEDURES FOR PRIOR HEARING, COMPLAINT AND APPEAL

After communicating the provisional list of the results of the evaluation, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, pronounce at the prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The final decision will be rendered after the analysis of the pronunciations presented at the previous hearing of interested parties. The final decision may be lodged within 15 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification. Candidates who choose to submit a complaint must address their pronouncement to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated competence. Candidates who choose to submit an appeal must address it to the FCT Board of Directors.

## 10. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Research scholarship contracts are signed directly with FCT.

The following documents must be sent, when the grant is awarded, for the purposes of contracting:



- a) Copy of the civil, tax and, where applicable, social security identification document (s);<sup>1</sup>
- b) Copy of the certificates of qualifications of the academic degrees held;
- c) Presentation of the registration record for the recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- d) Document proving enrollment and enrollment in a Doctoral Program, under the terms set out above in point 2 of this Notice;
- e) Statement by the advisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, pursuant to Article 5-A of the Research Fellow's Statute (draft declaration to be made available by FCT);
- f) Document proving the candidate's acceptance by the institution where the research activities will take place, guaranteeing the necessary conditions for its good development, as well as the fulfillment of the duties provided for in article 13 of the Research Fellow's Statute (draft declaration to be made available by FCT);
- g) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (draft declaration to be made available by FCT).

The granting of the scholarship is still dependent on:

- Compliance with the requirements provided for in this Opening Notice;
- The result of the scientific evaluation;
- The absence of unjustified non-compliance with the grantee's duties under a previous scholarship contract financed, directly or indirectly, by FCT;
- FCT's budget availability.

Failure to deliver any of the documents required to complete the scholarship contracting process, within 6 months from the date of communication of the scholarship's conditional grant decision, implies the expiration of the said grant and the termination of the process.

## 11. FINANCING

The scholarship payment will start after the applicants return the duly signed scholarship contract, which must occur within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date of receipt.

The scholarships awarded under this call for proposals will be financed by the FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under

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<sup>1</sup> The availability of these documents can be replaced, accordingly to candidate's option, by the presentation in person at the financing entity, which will keep the elements contained therein that are relevant to the validity and execution of the contract, including the civil, tax and security identification numbers as well as the validity of the respective documents.

PORTUGAL2020, namely through the Northern Regional Operational Program (NORTE 2020), The Regional Operational Program of the Center (Centro 2020) and the Regional Operational Program of the Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), in accordance with the regulatory provisions established for this purpose.

## **12. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS**

Fellows receive a monthly maintenance allowance in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The scholarship may also include other components, under the terms set out in article 18 of the RBI and at the amounts provided for in its Annex II.

All scholarship holders benefit from personal accident insurance for research activities, supported by FCT.

All scholarship holders who are not covered by any social protection regime can ensure the exercise of the right to social security through adherence to the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Schemes of the Social Security Social Security System, ensuring the FCT charges resulting from contributions under the terms and with the limits provided for in article 10 of the EBI.

## **13. PAYMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS**

Payments due to the grantee are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the grantee. The payment of the monthly maintenance allowance is made on the first business day of each month.

Payments for the registration, enrollment or tuition components are made by FCT directly to the national institution where the fellow is enrolled or enrolled in the PhD.

## **14. SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The renewal of the scholarship always depends on an application submitted by the fellow, within 60 working days prior to the start date of the renewal, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) reports issued by the advisor(s) and by the host organization(s) on the monitoring of the grantee's work and the evaluation of his activities;
- b) updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) document proving renewal of enrollment in the cycle of studies leading to the degree of doctor.

## **15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE FINANCING GRANTED**

In all R&D activities directly or indirectly financed by the scholarship, namely, in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided for in the scholarship, the mention of financial support from FCT and the Fund must be expressed European Social Program, namely



through the Northern Regional Operational Program (NORTH 2020), the Regional Operational Program of the Center (Centro 2020) and the Regional Operational Program of Alentejo (Alentejo 2020). For this purpose, the FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU insignia must be inscribed in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational program.

The dissemination of results of research funded under the RBI must comply with the rules for open access to data, publications and other research results in force at the FCT.

In all scholarships, and in particular in the case of actions supported by community financing, namely from the ESF, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by national and community bodies in accordance with the applicable legislation in this matter, with mandatory support from scholarship holders' collaboration and provision of the requested information, which includes carrying out surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the scholarship has already ceased.

## 16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

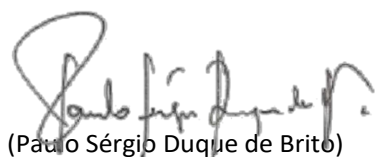
FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, origin or social status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or race origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and affiliation union.

## 17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The Contest is governed by the present Opening Notice, by the FCT Research Scholarship Regulation, approved by Regulation N.º 950/2019, published in the II Series of the DR of 16th of December, 2019, by the Research Fellowship Statute approved by the Law n.º 40/2004, of 18th of August, in the current wording, and by other applicable national and community legislation.

Portalegre, February 25, 2021

The VALORIZA Coordinator

  
(Paulo Sérgio Duque de Brito)